

Message Text

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SUBJ: CURRENT MEDIA REACTION

TIMES OF MALTA (CONSERVATIVE) OF FEBRUARY 24, IN AN EDITORIAL
ENTITLED "TURKEY AND NATO" COMMENTS:

"THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT, FACED WITH A SUDDEN ARMS AND MILITARY
AID EMBARGO AS A RESULT OF A DECISION BY THE UNITED STATES
CONGRESS, HAS TURNED TO ITS OTHER NATO ALLIES FOR MILITARY
ASSISTANCE. THIS IS A LOGICAL STEP FOR VARIOUS REASONS. THE
FIRST IS THAT HAVING HAD TO DEPEND ON AMERICAN EQUIPMENT FOR
TWO DECADES, IN MANY INSTANCES ALMOST SIMILAR TO THOSE OF OTHER
NATO MEMBERS, THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT IS ENDEAVORING TO MAINTAIN
HOMOGENEITY WITH OTHER NATO PARTNERS. THE SECOND REASON IS
THAT THE TURKS, HAVING SAID THEY DO NOT INTEND TO LEAVE NATO,
ARE SEEKING ASSISTANCE IN AREAS WHERE AID CAN BE AVAILABLE WITHOUT
POLITICAL STRINGS.

THE TURKISH PARLIAMENT IS CURRENTLY DISCUSSING A RECORD DEFENSE
BUDGET OF POUNDS 600 MILLION. THE NEED FOR EXTRA MONEY ARISES FROM
THE FACT THAT AMERICAN ARMS SUPPLIES WERE MADE AVAILABLE AS MILITARY
AID OR GIVEN UNDER ADVANTAGEOUS CREDITS. THIS PROCEDURE HAD
CLOSED THE TURKISH MARKET TO OTHER COUNTRIES.

NOW TURKEY IS TURNING TO BRITAIN, CANADA, FRANCE AND ITALY FOR
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ARMS SUPPLIES, A MOVE AIMED AT SAFEGUARDING AGAINST FURTHER ARMS

CUTS BY THE UNITED STATES. BRITISH AND CANADIAN COMMUNICATIONS
MANUFACTURERS ARE THOUGHT TO HAVE VISITED ANKARA RECENTLY.

TURKEY STILL HOPES THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD REVERSE THE DECISION
OF CONGRESS, STRONGLY CONDEMNED BOTH BY PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY
OF STATE HENRY KSSINGER. TO ITS CREDIT, THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT
HAS NOT ALLOWED THE ARMS CUTS TO DEVIATE IT FROM ITS PART POLICIES
OR TO DRIVE IT TO THE EXTREME STEP OF LEAVING NATO. THE TURKS
NO DOUBT ARE FULLY AWARE OF THE DANGER SUCH A DRASTIC MOVE ENTAILS
TO THEIR COUNTRY AND TO THE FREE WORLD TO WHICH THEY BELONG." BIRN

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